

# California State Journal of Medicine

OWNED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUTLER BUILDING, 135 STOCKTON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

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VOL. XVIII

JANUARY, 1920.

No. 1.

## 1920 RESOLUTIONS.

There is a remote region where there are no coal strikes and where the atmosphere is most ardent that is described by sacred writers and theological commentators as a place paved with good resolutions. It is not the making, however, but the breaking of good resolutions that prepare them for such paving purposes.

We are informed that "those who see the right and approve it too, condemn the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue," furnish plentiful paving for this remote region. It is with no idea of furnishing superflous paving that we offer for your adoption suggestions for 1920 resolutions.

Resolute men and women who never let the native hue of resolution be "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought" have blazed the way in every useful field of human endeavor, particularly in the field of medicine.

During 1920 several acid tests will be applied that will determine the real interest that every ethical member of our profession in this State takes in the progress of scientific medicine. Measures will confront us on the 1920 ballot that are definitely designed to undermine the very foundations of scientific research and create chaos in the administration of our Medical Practice laws. Now, no one can say that he is intelligently interested in advancing or improving his profession or promoting or protecting the public health, who does not know what movements are afoot that menace both, who ignores and underestimates the pernicious activity of these various agencies, who has never coped with them or cooperated with his fellows who are devoted to raising and preserving standards, not for any selfish purpose, not for private gain—but for the public good.

In these columns we propose at the proper time

to analyze these menacing measures and suggest appropriate action. We, therefore, earnestly urge that your first firm resolution for 1920 will be to read regularly and thoroughly every number of your State Journal.

One of our leading specialists who was recently called into consultation with a physician in one of California's thriving communities said that the patient could have been saved the expense if the Doctor had only removed the Journal wrapper from a recent edition and read an exhaustive article on a parallel case.

During the year that has passed since Armistice Day there has been time to accumulate and appraise a large part of the valuable health lessons that have come out of the war. These should now be applied more generally to civil life. Let the Health Officers of our cities, counties and State rise to their opportunities during 1920, and with clear vision and constructive purpose put the principles of preventive medicine into more general use. The care and protection of human life is the greatest service that can be rendered any community.

The people can always be relied upon to support a well administered health department devoted to a consistent comprehensive health program; but one that wavers with every political wind that blows neither merits nor will win public confidence. Communities that now seem niggardly in their appropriations for health departments will set a higher value upon this indispensable work when the health officers are more practical and less perfunctory. The enforcement of health laws means the betterment of the community industrially, socially and morally. All progressive communities aim to attain these specific purposes and will cooperate with health officers that are not only

awake but up and doing. Health is the most vital thing in the life of each individual of each community. It is generally conceded that it is better to have a sanitary community than a sick community.

So many health measures that have proven effective elsewhere are not adequately applied in California. There is vast room for improvement during 1920 in this direction. The gospel of health is not spread by those who stand idly in the market place gazing at the drifting clouds.

All members of the profession can and should aid in this important work. No one knows the health needs of the community better than the physicians. They feel the public pulse so often that they know its rhythm and reason.

Let no one vainly try to do during 1920 what can only be accomplished by concerted effort. The biggest things in life cannot be accomplished by one individual playing a solitary game. It has been well said that the person who thinks he can get along without others is foolish, and if he thinks others cannot get along without him he is a fool.

As a permanent 1920 resolution, let us cultivate the cooperative spirit and all highly resolve, that by applying the helpful agencies known to modern medicine, we will make our part of the world a better place to live in, and that unselfishly and unflinchingly we will fulfill our professional and civic duties.

In this way we will not only initiate a new calendar but a new era of development.

## ANNUAL TAX NOW DUE.

Particular attention is called to the fact that the annual tax of \$2.00 is now due and payable by all persons holding certificates to practice the healing art in the State of California. Failure to pay this tax to the Board of Medical Examiners within sixty days of January 1, causes automatic forfeiture of license. It also leads to omission of the name of the offender from the official directory issued annually by the Board. Re-instatement can only follow special application in a specified form, this application to be accompanied by a penalty of \$10.00. In case you have not received due notice of this tax, it may well be that you have not, as required by law, kept the Board of Medical Examiners informed of your changes of address. This tax is necessary, and is imposed by law and it is not in the option of the Board of Medical Examiners to remit or omit it. It must be paid.

Those who have paid the tax covering any portion of 1919 must none the less pay the \$2.00 required for 1920. Do not delay unless vou wish to make trouble for yourself and forfeit \$10.00.

It is worth your while to read over the addenda published in the back of the official directory issued by the State Board of Medical Examiners. You will find several points of special interest. You will find, for instance, that the law requires your license to practice, to be prominently displayed in your office.

## MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL RULES.

A matter of no small importance in the public health program of a municipality is its emergency hospital service. Too often the attitude of the medical profession as well as of the lay public is that service on such duty is merely a polite form of graft whereby the attending staff is afforded opportunity to secure patients of right belonging as patients to outside surgeons. Such an attitude is sometimes all too justifiable. It is a pleasure, therefore, as well as a matter of instruction, to comment on the excellent organization and administration attained in the San Francisco emergency hospital service under the direction of Dr. Alanson Weeks, and now to be continued by Dr. Edmund Butler, who succeeds to the position of Chief Surgeon following the recent resignation of Dr. Weeks. Of special interest are the following rules, which might well serve as a model for all emergency hospital services.

1. Under no circumstances is any doctor of this Service to take for his own any case first seen by him in an Emergency Hospital.

- 2. Immediate notification of the family physician and the relatives of all cases brought to an Emergency Hospital. If patient has no physician, a list of at least six doctors, who are known to be reputable, is to be given him from which he may select one.
- 3. The Doctor on duty is directly responsible for the searching and booking of valuables of patients.
- 4. An Emergency Hospital sticker reading "Emergency Dressing only. Have your own doctor examine at once" is to be placed upon all dressings made in Emergency Hospitals.

### INDUSTRIAL PHYSIOLOGY.

This term is applied by Frederic S. Lee\* to the hygienic or physiologic aspects of industrial activity. The war has demonstrated anew the close relationship between industrial efficiency and health. Efficiency and industrial success depend after all, on the harmonious and healthful operation of individual human bodies. These facts are receiving attention from the more thoughtful and far-sighted industrial leaders. The methods of industrial physiology are based on observation and experiment. Careful and accurate analysis of output and of physiologic effects of work are made. As a result, both employer and worker will soon recognize that industry must be organized on an intelligent basis and "not, as heretofore, on a basis of ignorance of how the worker can do his best.'

Lee mentions among the subjects being investigated and deserving investigation, the following topics. The high cost of a high labor turnover is shown by increased production cost, increased accidents and the necessity for training new workers. Food and efficiency are closely related. Physiologic analysis of certain operations has been aided by the cinematograph which has led to simplified manipulations and less strain on the worker. Accidents are closely related to fatigue, inexperience, fast work, poor light, heat, and other causes. The

<sup>\*</sup>P. H. Reports, April 11, 1919.